

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SMALL BUSINESS

March 13, 2009

Robert E. Olson  
Economic Development Administration, Denver Region  
Dept. of Commerce  
1244 Speer Boulevard, Room 670  
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Mr. Olson:

I am writing to express my support for a grant application submitted by the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce for Economic Development Administration grant funding. They have proposed construction of a Regional Economic Development Commerce Center.

The construction of the Commerce Center will bring a regional strategy to the ongoing post-disaster business recovery in the area. In addition to housing a variety of support services for existing and new businesses, the Center will have the capacity to host a wide array of activities to support the long-term growth and sustainability of regional small business.

I hope you will give every consideration to this project. Please direct any correspondence regarding this matter to my grants office in Des Moines. Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin  
United States Senator

TH/jnm

REPLY TO:

135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501  
(202) 224-3744  
TTY: (202) 224-4479  
e-mail: chuck\_grassley@grassley.senate.gov

721 FEDERAL BUILDING  
210 WALNUT STREET  
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140  
(515) 288-1145

206 FEDERAL BUILDING  
101 1ST STREET SE  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-1227  
(319) 363-6832

## United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

March 9, 2009

REPLY TO:

103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING  
320 6TH STREET  
SIoux CITY, IA 51101-1244  
(712) 233-1660

210 WATERLOO BUILDING  
531 COMMERCIAL STREET  
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497  
(319) 322-6652

131 WEST 3RD STREET  
SUITE 163  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419  
(563) 322-4335

307 FEDERAL BUILDING  
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204  
(712) 322-7103

Ms. Shannon L. Meyer  
President/CFO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 1st Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Dear Ms. Meyer:

I have contacted the Denver Regional Office of the Economic Development Administration expressing my support for the Regional Economic Commerce Centre application recently submitted by the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. I asked that it be given all due consideration. When I receive a response from the Economic Development Administration, I will relay the necessary information to you.

Thank you for allowing me to be of assistance to you. If you have any further questions regarding this, or any other federal matter, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

CEG/sk

RANKING MEMBER,  
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET  
JUDICIARY  
AGRICULTURE

CO-CHAIRMAN,  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
CONTROL CAUCUS

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



**Board of Supervisors  
Linn County, Iowa**

**Lu Barron** - District 1  
**Linda Langston** - District 2  
**Ben Rogers** - District 3  
**Brent Oleson** - District 4  
**James M. Houser** - District 5

Administrative Office Building  
930 First Street Southwest  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-2161

July 29, 2009

I-JOBS Board  
ATTN: Joseph Jones  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50312

Dear I-JOBS Board:

The Linn County Board of Supervisors supports the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce's application for I-JOBS funding for a regional Economic Commerce Centre.


The flood of June 2008 devastated much of the Cedar Rapids area, including all of the downtown and many local businesses. The need to support and revitalize the Cedar Rapids business community is thus of paramount importance in helping to strengthen the area's economy. The new Economic Commerce Centre, to be built on the site of the current Chamber of Commerce building, would provide office space for a variety of key private and non-profit organizations, serving as a symbol of the partnership between those entities: the Chamber of Commerce, the Cedar Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Economic Planning Redevelopment Corporation, the Entrepreneurial Development Center, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and Priority One. The Centre would also house a state-of-the-art conference center and rental office space for start-up or struggling businesses.

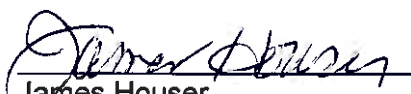
In addition to offering much-needed help to the business community by providing the combined efforts of all the resident entities under one roof, the building itself could become a foundation for the continued recovery and restoration of downtown Cedar Rapids, and the entire community. We support the Chamber of Commerce's application to the I-JOBS Board and hope that you will consider its approval.

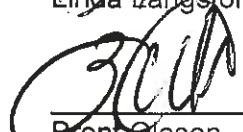
Sincerely,

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

  
Lu Barron, Chair

  
Linda Langston, Vice Chair

  
James Houser

  
Brent Oleson

  
Ben Rogers

[www.linncounty.org](http://www.linncounty.org)

[lu.barron@linncounty.org](mailto:lu.barron@linncounty.org) • [linda.langston@linncounty.org](mailto:linda.langston@linncounty.org) • [ben.rogers@linncounty.org](mailto:ben.rogers@linncounty.org)  
[brent.oleson@linncounty.org](mailto:brent.oleson@linncounty.org) • [james.houser@linncounty.org](mailto:james.houser@linncounty.org)  
phone 319.892.5000 • fax 319.892.5009



Board of Supervisors  
Linn County, Iowa

Lu Barron - District 1  
Linda Langston - District 2  
Ben Rogers - District 3  
Brent Oleson - District 4  
James M. Houser - District 5

Administrative Office Building  
930 First Street Southwest  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-2161

March 16, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President and CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 First Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Shannon:

The Linn County Board of Supervisors is united in its support of the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce's proposal for a Regional Economic Commerce Centre.

The flood of June 2008 devastated much of the Cedar Rapids area, including all of the downtown and many local businesses. The need to support and revitalize the Cedar Rapids business community is thus of paramount importance in helping to strengthen the area's economy. The new Economic Commerce Centre, to be built on the site of the current Chamber of Commerce building, would provide office space for a variety of key private and non-profit organizations, serving as a symbol of the partnership between those entities: the Chamber of Commerce, the Cedar Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Economic Planning Redevelopment Corporation, the Entrepreneurial Development Center, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and Priority One. The Centre would also house a state-of-the-art conference center and rental office space for start-up or struggling businesses.

In addition to offering much-needed help to the business community by providing the combined efforts of all the resident entities under one roof, the building itself could become a foundation for the continued recovery and restoration of downtown Cedar Rapids, and the entire community. We wholeheartedly support this very important initiative.

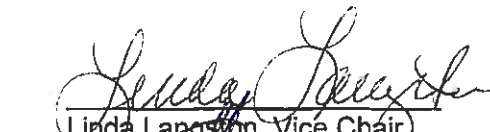
Sincerely,

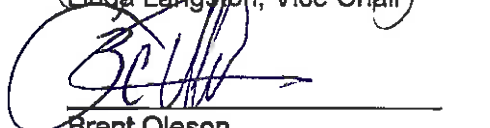
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

  
Lu Barron, Chair

  
James Houser

  
Ben Rogers

  
Linda Langston, Vice Chair

  
Brent Oleson

[www.linncounty.org](http://www.linncounty.org)

[lu.barron@linncounty.org](mailto:lu.barron@linncounty.org) • [linda.langston@linncounty.org](mailto:linda.langston@linncounty.org) • [ben.rogers@linncounty.org](mailto:ben.rogers@linncounty.org)  
[brent.oleson@linncounty.org](mailto:brent.oleson@linncounty.org) • [james.houser@linncounty.org](mailto:james.houser@linncounty.org)  
phone 319.892.5000 • fax 319.892.5009



Kirkwood Community College  
3375 Armar Drive  
Marion, IA 52302  
P 319 377-8256  
F 319 398-5698  
[www.iowashdc.org](http://www.iowashdc.org)

March 17, 2009

Shannon Meyer  
Chamber CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 1st Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1196

**SUBJECT: Regional Economic Commerce Centre (RECC)**

Dear Shannon:

Thank you for sharing with me details regarding the proposed RECC. I applaud the Area Chamber's effort to construct a "one-stop-shop" to provide community business owners with a full range of resources. For the past 20 years, the Kirkwood Small Business Development Center has been a key factor in the long-term growth and sustainability of small businesses in this area. We would welcome the opportunity to be included on this team of service providers you are proposing.

I agree with you that one issue of concern to the small-business community is meeting space – especially for post-flood-coordination meetings. The conference facility proposed for the RECC could alleviate some of the strain on existing space at the Chamber and elsewhere in the community. My center is very interested in becoming a regular user of the classroom-style conference room you are proposing as part of the RECC. We anticipate using it for seminars, training classes and streaming-video teleconferences several times a year.

I look forward to joining you in providing services to area small businesses and in utilizing the new conference space.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AP" or "Alan Beach".

Alan D. Beach, Regional Director



RESOLUTION NO. 0735-07-09

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/LINN COUNTY  
COMMUNITY TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE I-JOBS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the I-JOBS Local Infrastructure Competitive Grant program was adopted by the State of Iowa Legislature to provide infrastructure investment funding to mitigate disaster recovery from the Flood of 2008, and to provide for employment while stimulating and promoting long term economic growth, and

WHEREAS, the I-JOBS program will provide \$118.5 million to be distributed in competitive grants available for reconstruction of local public buildings and flood control prevention in communities from devastation of the Flood of 2008 throughout the state of Iowa, and the Cedar Rapids/Linn County community will be submitting 23 (twenty-three) competitive grant applications for projects to the I-JOBS Grant Program, including:

Linn County – Administrative Office – Rebuild and Energy Efficiency  
Linn County – Juvenile Law Center  
City of Cedar Rapids – Reconstruction of Public Parking Ramps  
City of Cedar Rapids – Parking Access Revenue Control System (PARCS)  
City of Cedar Rapids – Downtown Parking Structure  
City of Cedar Rapids – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street S.E. Streetscape Improvements  
City of Cedar Rapids – Intermodal Transportation Facility (ITF)  
City of Cedar Rapids – Anaerobic Biogas System Improvements  
City of Cedar Rapids – Edgewood Road Reconstruction at Cedar River  
City of Cedar Rapids – 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW Reconstruction  
City of Cedar Rapids – Highway 100  
City of Cedar Rapids – US Cellular Center Improvements & Events Center Construction  
City of Cedar Rapids – Acquisition of Flood-Blighted Downtown Properties  
City of Cedar Rapids – Façade of Improvement Incentive Program (F.A.C.E.)  
City of Cedar Rapids – Multigenerational Community Life Center – PLAY  
City of Cedar Rapids – Joint Communications Network  
City of Cedar Rapids – Cedar Rapids Public Library Main Facility  
City of Cedar Rapids – Demolition and remediation of the buildings located on the 1100 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> St S.E. (formerly Quality Chef)  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce – Economic Commerce Center  
African American Heritage Foundation of Iowa – African American Museum  
Legion Arts – Restoration of CSPS Hall  
Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa – JA World  
Indian Creek Nature Center – From Flood to Flowers – Crafting a LEED Nature Center  
Headquarters in the Beauty of Prairie Flowers

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA that the above noted projects are hereby endorsed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA that submission of applications for the City of Cedar Rapids for the above noted projects are hereby authorized.

Passed this 22nd day of July, 2009.

Voting: Council member Podzimek moved the adoption of the resolution; seconded by Council member Wleneke. Adopted, Ayes, Council members Fagan, Gulick, McGrane, Podzimek, Shey, Shields, Vernon, Wleneke and Mayor Halloran.

Attest:

Kay Halloran, Mayor

Ann Ollinger, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 0237-03-09

WHEREAS, the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce (the "Chamber") has supported economic development activities within Linn County and communities for over 90 years; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber, in cooperation with other key entities, has undertaken an initiative to develop a Regional Economic Commerce Center (the "RECC") which will have a positive impact on job growth and our capacity to grow new jobs; and

WHEREAS, the RECC will serve as an integral tool for business recovery as a one-stop shop for diversified technical and business support; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the proposed RECC will provide support for key entities for the long term sustainability and growth of the City; and

WHEREAS, the RECC will streamline the efforts and efficiencies of regional economic development by allowing numerous organizations, including, but not limited to, the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Priority One, Entrepreneurial Development Center, Cedar Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and Economic Planning and Redevelopment Corporation, to co-locate; and,

WHEREAS, the Chamber has completed and submitted a grant application to the Federal Economic Development Agency (the "EDA") as part of the Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity for communities effected by the Flood of 2008 Presidential Disaster Declarations with respect to development of the said RECC; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber has requested that the City support the Chamber's effort to secure EDA grant funding and development of said RECC.

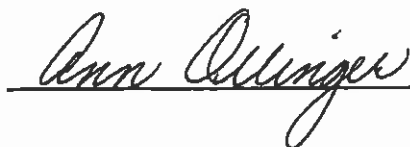
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA that the City supports the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and other key entities in their efforts to secure grant funding and the development of the Regional Economic Commerce Center.

Passed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.

Voting: Council member Shields moved the adoption of the resolution; seconded by Council member Podzimek. Adopted, Ayes, Council members Fagan, Gulick, McGrane, Podzimek, Shey, Shields and Vernon. Abstain, Mayor Halloran. Nay, Council member Wieneke.

\_\_\_\_\_, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk





July 23, 2009

Shannon Meyer  
President & CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Shannon:

On behalf of Priority One, one of the primary economic development organizations in Cedar Rapids, I would like to express our support for the proposed Economic Commerce Center (ECC). The economic vitality of our community would greatly benefit from the collaborative efforts of housing complementary organizations in a new state-of-the-art facility.

Independent of one another, Priority One, the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and the Entrepreneurial Development Center Inc. provide critical expertise regarding support and guidance to our prospective clients. I believe a "one-stop-shop" to enhance services to existing business, potential new industry and start-up companies is a significant step forward in creating a more well rounded economic based. The synergies of co-locating organizations within the Economic Commerce Center clearly provides enormous potential benefit to the economic prosperity throughout the Cedar Rapids area.

We share the Chamber's vision of creating a unified location that will strengthen the working relationships of the various groups striving to promote economic growth in Cedar Rapids. I sincerely consider this new facility an investment in the future of our community.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Seckman  
President

Economic Development Division  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

424 First Avenue NE Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401 • [www.priority1.com](http://www.priority1.com)  
PH: 319-398-5317 • FX: 319-398-5228

WWW.RYANCOMPANIES.COM

RYAN COMPANIES US, INC.  
625 First Street SE, Suite 460  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2032

319-731-2800 *tel*  
319-731-2900 *fax*



July 28, 2009

Shannon Meyer  
President and CEO  
Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce  
424 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Shannon:

I would like to add my name to the list of those writing in support of the Regional Economic Commerce Center. I know that many others have commented on the potential this project has to revitalize the City, post-flood. I agree 100% with these discussions, and additionally, I would like to offer what may be a new perspective.

I was asked to serve on a committee several years ago at the Chamber. The goal of this committee was to review office space options for the Chamber, our economic development arm, Priority 1, and several related nonprofits. We considered relocation to existing space, the creation of new space, and expansion on our existing site. After much consideration, expansion on site was the preferred and most economical option. Of course, the flood intervened and our lives were all changed.

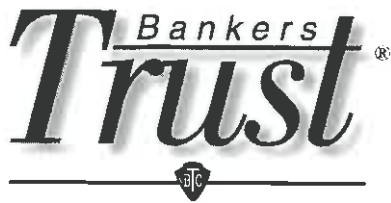
My point in mentioning this is that the commerce center concept was a terrific idea before the flood. In our minds, there was complete justification for creation of a space and a place where all of our efforts at community enhancement and job growth could be focused, prior to June 2008. Now, two things have changed. First, there is an increased need for this type of space. The space will be well used. Second, there are fewer resources today as a result of all of the flood-related recovery demands.

This Center offers a great way to leverage any investment we receive to accomplish great good for the community.

Sincerely,  
RYAN COMPANIES US, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Gullickson".

Marc Gullickson,  
President, Ryan Iowa



July 24, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President & CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 First Ave NE  
Cedar Rapids IA 52402-1196

RE: Economic Commerce Center

Dear Ms. Meyer:

I am writing this letter in support of efforts to secure funding for the Economic Commerce Center. The Economic Commerce Center has the potential to be the cornerstone of the flood recovery efforts in downtown Cedar Rapids. It will provide tremendous economic efficiencies to the area by providing for shared resources for our local economic development groups, as well as other key organizations. In addition, the Center will provide space for incubating new businesses while giving them close access to these key organizations.

As a local bank President, I believe the Economic Commerce Center project has a strong business case. The ability to combine local economic development groups and new businesses in the downtown area will provide a significant economic engine for future development. I fully support this project and see it as a critical component for long term economic development in the Cedar Rapids and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Kintner".

Tim R. Kintner  
President & CEO

TRK/em



**Clifton  
Gunderson LLP**  
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

July 23, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President and CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 First Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-1196

Re: Economic Commerce Center

Dear Ms. Meyer:

This letter is intended to show my strong support for securing funding for the Economic Commerce Center, which is proposed on the existing site of the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

The ability for us to combine some of the major organizations designed to stimulate our local economy, both in the short-term and for years to come, is something that rarely presents itself. The devastation we have suffered from the Flood of 2008, especially in the downtown area, has been a plague on small business and is in need of a project that will create jobs in the short-term. In addition, because of the entities who will occupy the facility, all sizes of business will be positively impacted immediately and in the future.

The time is now for this project and you have my full support.

Best regards,

William M. Vincent, CPA  
Partner

1715 1st Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402  
tel: 319.363.2697  
1.800.366.2090  
fax: 319.363.1746

[www.cliftoncpa.com](http://www.cliftoncpa.com)

Clifton Gunderson LLP is an Equal Opportunity Employer



# Mount Mercy College

Office of the President

1330 Elmhurst Drive NE • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-4797 • Telephone: 319-368-6464 • Facsimile: 319-368-5270

July 21, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President and CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 First Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

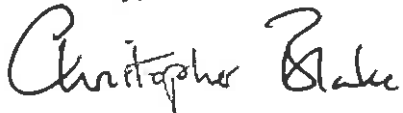
Dear Shannon:

As the President of Mount Mercy College, I would like to express my support and enthusiasm for the proposed Regional Economic Commerce Centre. This would offer much needed help to not only the downtown business community, but to the entire Cedar Rapids community.

This would combine the efforts of the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Priority One, Entrepreneurial Development Center, Cedar Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and the Economic Planning and Redevelopment Corporation all in one location. It would also be a valuable resource for the start-up or struggling businesses.

With the devastation of the floods and the downturn in the economy, this Center could be one of the most important initiatives undertaken for the continued recovery and rebuilding of our community, Cedar Rapids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Blake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Blake  
President

jt



July 21, 2009

Shannon Meyer  
President & CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Shannon,

I am writing to express my support for the application to EDA for construction of a Regional Economic Commerce Center in downtown Cedar Rapids.

The building will provide a regional strategy to coordinate efforts in economic development. There are tremendous benefits from bringing together all of the development organizations. I can not envision a better way to revitalize an area that has been devastated by the flood of 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyle Skogman", is written over a horizontal line.

Kyle Skogman

# HALL & HALL ENGINEERS, INC.

*Leaders in Land Development Since 1953*



July 23, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President / CEO Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 1st Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

RE: Regional Economic Commerce Center-Linn County Iowa  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Dear Ms. Meyer:

As a person with a business that provides engineering services that are part of economic development in Linn County, I want to share my support for the proposed Regional Economic Commerce Center ("RECC") on the current site of the Chamber of Commerce.

By building the 60,000 sf Regional Economic Commerce Center in Cedar Rapids Iowa we will have a business incubator/accelerator facility that will provide small, entrepreneurial businesses with affordable space, shared support, and business development services serving all of Linn County (population 210,000). We believe the RECC will help young businesses during their start-up period when they are most financially vulnerable and in the greatest need of business support. It will also serve as an accelerator for flood-impacted businesses during their recovery process. Co-tenants such as the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce ("Chamber"), Priority One ("P1"), and the Entrepreneurial Development Center ("EDC") will provide advisory support in an effort to expand these businesses and further economic development in our region. At this time the RECC will serve our community's economic struggles as we continue to recover from the devastating floods of 2008.

The RECC, needs to be funded by I-Jobs for the \$6 million dollar requested and use the \$3 million dollars of private funds and the \$3million dollars of Economic Development Administration funds to complete the 60,000 sf facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Allen Witt', is written over a faint, larger blue signature.

Allen Witt, P.E.  
Principal



222 Second Avenue SE  
P.O. Box 3013  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406  
319 368-4444  
319 368-4111 fax

July 21, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President/CEO  
Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce  
424 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Dear Ms. Meyer,

As a business person and resident of Cedar Rapids, this letter is to voice the strong support I have for the proposed Economic Commerce Center on the current site of the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

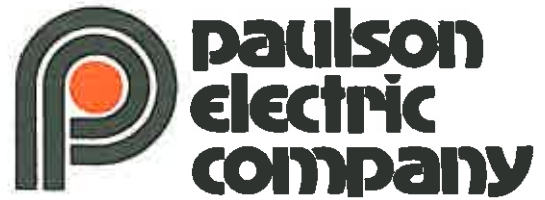
During the devastating floods of 2008, our business was significantly impacted. Being part of the "community" of flood victims, I am confident in saying that the Economic Commerce Center will serve as a beacon of hope and symbol of recovery for our community. This is not a "feel good" project or a just a downtown development project, it is a viable and much needed resource that has a strong business case. The co-habitation and shared resources for such critical groups as the Chamber, Priority One, the Entrepreneurial Development Center, as well as other key organizations will serve as a model of efficiency and excellence. The reasonably priced space for start up businesses and their access to these key organizations will play a critical role in the sustainability of current businesses and plant the seed of success of many more to come.

As a banker, I have seen first hand how this project will help our business community. I fully support this project and the vision it creates as we charge ahead along the road of recovery.

Respectfully,

Nancy Kasparek  
President, Cedar Rapids  
US Bank  
222 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401





July 21, 2009

**Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President and CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 First Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-1196**

722 Fifth Avenue S.E.  
P.O. Box 1170  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406  
319/364/7143  
319/364/5817 Fax

685 Century Drive  
P.O. Box 1625  
Dubuque, Iowa 52004-1625  
563/588/2373  
563/588/1827 Fax

1915 Jefferson  
P.O. Box 1047  
Waterloo, Iowa 50704  
319/233/3543  
319/233/1931 Fax

**Re: Economic Commerce Center**

**Dear Ms. Meyer:**

**I am writing this letter in strong support of securing funding for the Economic Commerce Center. I see the potential of the Economic Commerce Center as a once in a lifetime opportunity to forever change the economic development landscape in the Cedar Rapids area.**

**Never before has the opportunity presented itself to gather the major economic development entities under one roof to provide the synergy necessary for economic recovery and growth in both the short and long term aftermath of the June 2008 flood.**

**I believe that the impact of the Economic Commerce Center will not only jumpstart the economy in the short term by providing construction jobs but will be an asset that will provide a return on investment many times over in the long term economic development of the Cedar Rapids and surrounding area economies.**

Sincerely,

**Ron Olson, President**

July 23, 2009

Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Shannon Meyer, President/CEO  
424 First Avenue, Northeast  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

**RE: Economic Commerce Center**

Dear Ms. Meyer,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed Economic Commerce Center (ECC) to be constructed on the current site of the Chamber building.

As a commercial real estate broker whose office was flooded, I have had a front row seat to the floods of 2008, the aftermath, and the current state of our downtown more than a year later. While the devastation of the floods is well documented, what is known to lesser extent is the current struggles that our community faces, specifically downtown, as it relates to economic development and commercial real estate recovery. It's not merely about putting things back together as they were before the flood, it's about building a better Cedar Rapids.

In addition to all the positive benefits of having the Chamber, Priority One, and many other business related organizations in the ECC, this building will be instrumental in helping revive the dismal downtown commercial real estate market. There is almost an insurmountable psychological barrier to companies moving downtown in the wake of the floods. There is plenty of commercial space for lease and/or sale, but many are uncertain about the downtown and where it's headed and therefore reluctant to consider locating downtown. The ECC would breathe a much needed breath of fresh air to the real estate market. It will provide confidence that businesses, large and small, can and should invest in downtown and that this building will be the first of many in a new post-flood commercial real estate landscape.

The synergies that are created by this project between the tenants in the building, the people using those services, and the surrounding downtown real estate market are countless. I cannot think of a better project to be supported by the State of Iowa and the I-Jobs program.

Sincerely,



Todd A. Barker, MBA  
Broker/Associate



**Rinderknecht**

**Rinderknecht  
Associates, Inc.  
General Contractor**

1000 29th Avenue SW

P.O. Box 369

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

52406-0369

Telephone 319.366.7781

Fax 319.366.8470

July 24, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President and CEO  
Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce  
424 First Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1196

RE: Economic Commerce Center

Dear Ms. Meyer:

Rinderknecht is extremely supportive of securing funding for the Economic Commerce Center. Our company understands the potential of the Center as a unique opportunity to have a dramatic effect on economic development in the Cedar Rapids area.

This is a great opportunity to bring together the major economic development entities under one roof, providing the synergy necessary for economic recovery and growth in the short and long term aftermath of the flood.

We strongly believe that the impact of the Economic Commerce Center will give our economy the jumpstart it needs in the short term by providing construction jobs, but also provide a significant return on investment in the long term economic development of Cedar Rapids and the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Tom L. Amosson  
President

TA/da



July 21, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer  
President/CEO  
Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce  
424 1st Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Dear Ms. Meyer,

I am writing in reference to securing the funding for the Economic Commerce Center.

Simply stated, this is the single most important project to the future economic recovery of our greater downtown.

As a fifth generation Cedar Rapids native, I can say our downtown has always been a source of entrepreneurial pride. We have a long history of entrepreneur's who have taken risks to start businesses downtown; many of which have had a profound impact on the economic vitality of the entire community.

Our downtown must remain strong and must be a place in the future where we can continue to attract new business and help sustain existing businesses. To that end, the proposed Economic Commerce Center will have a critical role in that future process.

The co-mingling of major economic development entities within the Commerce Center along with the opportunity to share resources will serve to offer a 'best in class' infrastructure for the downtown recovery process and the community at large.

In short, the Economic Commerce Center will be an essential link to placing our downtown on a new and vibrant economic glide path.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandt A. Worley".

Brandt A. Worley  
President

F. James Bradley  
Byron G. Riley  
Michael K. Denney  
Patrick M. Courney  
Donald G. Thompson  
Kelly R. Baier  
Gregory J. Seyfer  
Dean A. Spina  
Joseph E. Schmall  
Bradley G. Hart  
William J. Neppi  
William T. McCartan  
Maureen G. Kenney  
Vernon P. Squires  
Timothy J. Hill  
Paul D. Burns  
Michael J. Pugh  
Janice J. Kerkove  
Nancy A. Wood  
Shannon P. Thompson



BRADLEY & RILEY PC  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS  
CEDAR RAPIDS - IOWA CITY

2007 FIRST AVENUE SE  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52402-6344

MAILING ADDRESS:  
PO BOX 2804  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52406-2804

TELEPHONE: 319-363-0101  
FAX: 319-363-9824

Kevin C. Papp  
Laura C. Mueller  
Kimberly H. Blankenship  
Matthew S. Carstens  
Joseph W. Younker  
Jessica A. Doro  
Jeremy B.P. Hagan  
Natalie K. Ditmars  
Adam S. Tarr

WEBSITE ADDRESS:  
[www.bradleyriley.com](http://www.bradleyriley.com)

E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
[bhart@bradleyriley.com](mailto:bhart@bradleyriley.com)

DIRECT DIAL:  
319-861-8736

July 24, 2009

Ms. Shannon Meyer, President/CEO  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
424 First Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

RE: Economic Commerce Center Application for I-Jobs Funding

Dear Shannon

As a business lawyer and committed community volunteer, I very strongly support the plans for the Economic Commerce Center in downtown Cedar Rapids. The Economic Commerce Center will allow the Chamber to continue its terrific work for businesses in our area, and to be more efficient and effective in that work by having the Entrepreneurial Development Center, improved space for Priority One and incubator space available to meet different economic development needs for our community. This project will not only be a sign of recovery for our community, but will create jobs and enhance the services these important economic development organizations provide for our area.

It is difficult to imagine a project more appropriate for I-Jobs funding, and I am excited about the application and the real likelihood of beginning construction of this Center as soon as the I-Jobs Board makes its decision.

Thank you for your leadership and vision for this project.

Sincerely,

BRADLEY & RILEY PC

  
Bradley G. Hart

llk